

Ancient Greek Intermediate II
SLTG 5324

An intensive course in the language and culture of ancient Greece

Language course, 3 credits

2018/19 Winter Term

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Office Hours:
before and after class or by appointment

Learning Ancient Greek at CEU

Ancient Greek is one of the most important source languages of Late Antique & Medieval Studies, Ancient Philosophy and Religious Studies. Whether your interest is in reading classical Greek texts in their own right, in studying their reception in the Middle Ages or, ultimately, in moving from classical texts towards Late Antique and Byzantine literature, a thorough training in ancient Greek will be the *conditio sine qua non* to pursue any of these goals.

Goals and learning outcomes. Participants of the course will gain a sound knowledge of the Ancient Greek language (Attic dialect), i.e. an ability to read, analyse and interpret primary source material written in Greek. After four terms (two years) of study (first year: morphology and general reading practice, second year: syntax and the language of some ancient Greek authors), participants should be able to attend Greek Text Seminars or advanced classes in Classical and Byzantine Greek offered at CEU or in higher education institutions other than CEU.

Format. Each session (75 minutes, twice in a week) begins with a short written test (five to ten minutes), in order to make sure that participants have thoroughly memorized the vocabulary and grammar of the previous session. Assigned homework is checked before we turn to texts and exercises. Regular homework is set; students should estimate that successful participation in these classes requires at least *twice* the amount of time outside the classroom than inside the classroom.

Reading. At the beginner course we read one chapter of the Textbook '*Reading Greek*' in each class, in order to accustom participants to the Greek alphabet, reading and writing, the basic structures and grammar; and also some (very short) excerpts from ancient authors, in order to demonstrate also the diversity of Greek language, and prepare the students for the reading of real Greek texts. At the intermediate course we read longer excerpts of ancient Greek works (usually three excerpts each semester), chosen with respect to the preferences and

interest of the participants. We use some other texts (this year mainly the *Cyclops* of Euripides), or just longer sentences for the demonstration of grammatical phenomena.

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Classwork. The course is open for everyone with a sound knowledge of Ancient Greek morphology (declensions, conjugation of regular verbs). After a short revision of the grammar of the previous semester (subjunctive mood, passive voice, the predicates of subordinate clauses), we discuss the conjugation of the athematic verbs, and some further types of subordinate clauses. The main goal of the course is to practice reading and interpreting Greek texts: this semester we read excerpts of Xenophon (*Memorabilia*), Aristophanes (*Clouds*), and Plato (*Apology/Crito/Phaedo*).

Assessment. Regular attendance (at least twenty sessions out of twenty four) is mandatory for everyone, including those who are registered only for Audit. (According to the SLTG Guidelines, students signed up for Audit who fail to meet this requirement will be given a W, or withdraw, grade.) Student performance will be assessed through short quizzes of five to ten minutes at the beginning of each session, and some longer tests based on the texts discussed and translated in the class. The prerequisite for Audit is that you submit all the exercises to be done at home; an additional requirement for Pass is a B (60%) for the tests.